

11-2-00

Jack D. Wilkinson

PO Box 87

Chetopa KS 67336

FCC 82000

FCC

Docket # 99-339  
Dear Magalie Salas,No. of Copies rec'd 0  
List ABCDE

I was introduced to  
Video description in Chicago.  
I sure miss it since I  
have been back home.

If it is available, I would  
be much less of a problem  
to the family. I am sure they  
get tired of, what's hecbing?  
What are they doing? What's  
she doing? or did the TV go  
off?

Magalie Salas, Sec.

The FCC  
445 12th St., SW  
Washington, D.C.

FCC

Re: Docket No. 99-339,

Thank you for your vote requiring  
networks to provide informational  
service to visually impaired people.

No one can realize how important  
it is to tell what is going on by  
means of television. A blind  
person feels left out.

It would be certainly wonderful to  
look forward to family televiewing.

The value of descriptive video can  
not be over-estimated. I would  
hope and pray that the July 21st  
ruling will stand as is.

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Sincerely,  
Edeline Harlow  
P.O. Box 31  
Lamar, Mo. 64759

E.Hice

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November 2, 2000

99-339

Magalie Salas, Secretary  
The Federal Communications Commission  
445 - 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Federal Communications Commission

As parents of a now grown visually handicapped daughter, my husband and I have listened often to our daughter's frustration as she tries to "see" a movie or television show by sitting up close to the screen or trying to figure out what is happening by sound alone, dependent upon a sighted person to describe what is going on. This is very frustrating for her, especially when she wants to be independent which sometimes means she just doesn't know what is going on if she is too embarrassed to ask so she misses out on much of the enjoyment of the show. The descriptive videos are a real independence builder and equalizer for people like our daughter. We would like to encourage you to continue to provide and expand these services for television and movies—much like the special services for the deaf which allow them to "hear" the words by reading the print (if they need it).

Thank for your attention.

Sincerely,

*Elaine H. Bethke*

Elaine H. Bethke

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NOV 8 - 2000

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168 Valleybrook Dr.  
Lancaster PA 17601  
Nov. 6, 2000

Magalie Salas  
FCC  
Washington D.C.

Dear Commissioners:

As a blind person who misses so much valuable information on the screen because vital facts are put on the screen without audio, I want to tell you how much I appreciate your ruling that the larger market shall offer us a certain amount of audio description.

I know you are under pressure from many of the stations to rescind your ruling, but I bet you to stand your ground for the benefit of the 12 million people in this country who do not see well and therefore miss a lot of information on television.

Thank you again for your efforts on our behalf.

Sincerely yours,

Ann Porter

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APR 8 - 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary  
The Federal Communication Commission  
445 12 Street, S. W.  
Washington D.C. 20554

TEL ROOM

Re: Docket No. 99-339

"In opposition to reconsideration of the reported order on video description"

To Whom It May Concern:

As a visually impaired person I was delighted when the commission voted to require the networks to begin providing video description for TV programming.

I understand that the FCC has received petitions to reconsider their July 21st ruling, for the TV networks to begin providing video description of the key visual elements of TV programs for a blind and visually impaired viewers by April, 2002.

I have been able to rent descriptive movies a few times during the past 10 years. That is how long it has been since I have been unable to view the TV clearly and know what is really going on. It was wonderful to know what was going on when the characters were not speaking.

Besides being frustrating, been sight impaired can be very lonesome and TV is a great companion. I was so looking forward to April, 2002 when I could start enjoying the visual aspects of TV. Since there is no new information that the petitioners can provide, I beg the FCC to stand firm on its July ruling.

Sincerely,

*Mary M. Jern*

Mary M. Jern  
5511 Victoria Drive  
Oak Forest, IL 60452

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Salt Lake City, Utah  
Nov. 3 - 2000

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my name is:

Josephine Mirabelli  
2649 South 1800 East  
Salt Lake City, UT  
84106

tel. 801-485-1884

my DOCKET number is 99-339  
I would like the FCC to continue  
on providing video description for  
television programming in the future  
for us blind and visually  
impaired viewers.

Thank you  
Josephine Mirabelli

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Mrs. Henry Otis Silsbee III  
8 Groveland Street, Lynn, Massachusetts 01902

99-339

NOV 8 - 2000

OCTOBER 30, 2000

FCC MAIL ROOM

MARGALIE SALAS, SECRETARY  
THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
445 12TH STREET S.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20024-2101

DEAR MISS (OR MRS.) SALAS:

I AM WRITING ON BEHALF OF BLIND PEOPLE WHO DO NOT HAVE COMPUTERS AND HAVE VIRTUALLY NO ACCESS TO WHAT IS BEING SHOWN ON T-V BECAUSE THEY ARE EITHER TOTALLY BLIND OR, IN MY CASE, LEGALLY BLIND.

I WOULD LIKE TO SEE "DESCRIPTIVE RADIO (OR TELEVISION) READING SERVICE NOT ONLY CONTINUED, BUT EXPANDED TO INCLUDE "CABLE" TELEVISION.

THE CABLE COMPANY WHICH SERVICES LYNN, MASS. PROVIDES "S.A.P." (SECONDARY AUDIO PROGRAMING) BUT IT PROVIDES IT IN "FOREIGN LANGUAGE BROADCAST FORM" ONLY. THIS IS NOT ENTIRELY FAIR. WE "ENGLISH-SPEAKING" BLIND PEOPLE DESERVE TO BE ABLE TO SEE (IF WE CAN) AND HAVE DESCRIBED TO US VIA "S.A.P." (IN ENGLISH) THE EVENTS WHICH ARE TAKING PLACE ON T-V.

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MY FAMILY DOESN'T UNDERSTAND WHY WE NEED THIS; MY BROTHER SAYS:  
"LISTEN TO THE RADIO!" IT IS MY PERSONAL OPINION THAT HE AND OTHERS WHO  
REFUSE TO RECOGNIZE THAT THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO ARE "PHYSICALLY CHALL-  
ENGED " SHOULD BE BOUND, GAGED AND TIED TO A WHEEL CHAIR OR A BED FOR  
A PERIOD OF ONE WEEK. LEAVE EACH OF THESE PEOPLE ALONE AND ON  
THEIR OWN FOR ONE WEEK. DOING THIS, ESPECIALLY TO THOSE  
IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE MIGHT MAKE THEM REALIZE THAT WE "PHYSICAL-  
LY CHALLENGED" PEOPLE HAVE TO WORK OUR WAY INTO THEIR WORLD.

"TURNER CLASSIC MOVIES" (WHICH IS CHANNEL 73 IN THE LYNN, MASSA-  
CHUSETTS AREA, AND PART OF AN "ALA CARTE" CABLE PACKAGE DOES PROVIDE  
"S.A.P." THIS CHANNEL SHOWS MOVIES ALL DAY AND NIGHT. I WOULD LIKE TO  
"SEE" A NEWS CHANNEL PROVIDE THIS SERVICE, ALSO. I WATCH ONE "SOAP OP-  
ERA" ON "A.B.C. T-V: CHANNEL 5" I WOULD LIKE TO "SEE" "CHANNEL 5," AS  
WELL AS "NEW ENGLAND CABLE NEWS" EQUIPPED TO PROVIDE "S.A.P." IN ALL  
LANGUAGES, IN ORDER THAT ALL PEOPLE KNOW WHAT IS GOING ON; NOT ONLY  
IN THEIR OWN COMMUNITY, BUT, IN THE WORLD, AS WELL.

PLEASE TRY TO "PUSH" FOR A "CABLE-ORIENTED-BLIND-ENABLED" SYS-  
TEM FOR "S.A.P." IN ALL LANGUAGES, IF POSSIBLE. I, FOR ONE, WOULD BE  
FOREVER GREATFUL TO YOU.



**Jeffrey J. Moyer, MRA**

Consultant on Access  
670 Radford Drive  
Cleveland, OH 44143-1905

**DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL**

To: FCC  
From: Jeff Moyer  
Re: In Opposition to Petitioners for Reconsideration of the Reported Order on Video  
Description Docket No. 99-339  
Date: November 6, 2000

First of all, thank you for your historic action that promises to provide audio description for network television programming. This is a long overdue and seriously needed area of equal access and you are to be commended for your courageous leadership.

I have been losing my vision since I was a child. During the many years when I had useful vision that was limited, I would have to ask my family what happened when fast action or subtle gestures led to laughter or shifts in the drama that I did not understand. Now, however, as a blind person I find it impossible to enjoy television without constant reliance on my wife's good nature to provide running commentary on visual elements. When I can find videos with audio description, I am delighted – the titles are few and availability scant. Real time television access is equivalent to the deaf community's receipt of captioned television, which is now commonplace. I realize that there has been opposition to your action, but no new information was therein provided. You have done the right thing and must now stay the course. Thank you for your actions in the public good.

As a consultant on access, I am constantly working to open new forms of access, including audio description to channels of information in public places such as museums. Television itself is certainly a rightful medium for this access for the tens of millions of Americans with limited vision.

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MY BLINDNESS IS NOT DUE TO AGE. I HAD SPINAL MENINGITIS IN 1935, AT THE AGE OF 14 MONTHS. I WAS LEFT TOTALLY BLIND FOR 2-½ YEARS. MY MOM TOLD ME THAT A MIRACLE RESTORED MY SIGHT, BUT IT HAS NEVER BEEN PERFECT. I, ALSO, HAVE A SEVERE "BALANCE" PROBLEM. DESPITE THESE PROBLEMS, I "GOT THROUGH" SCHOOL WITH A "C" AVERAGE; HELD SEVERAL JOBS; MARRIED AND GAVE BIRTH TO 4 CHILDREN WHOM I RAISED WITH THE HELP OF MY LOVING HUSBAND. THE CHILDREN GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL AND HAVE RESPONSIBLE POSITIONS OUTSIDE THEIR RESPECTIVE HOMES. WE HAVE FOUR CHILDREN AND FOUR GRANDCHILDREN. TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, MY SONS HAVE BEEN IN "TROUBLE" ONLY ONCE. OUR YOUNGEST SON "DIVORCED" HIS FAMILY WHEN HE WAS 36; IN HE WANTS NOTHING TO DO WITH US OR HIS SIBLINGS.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION TO THIS LETTER.

SINCERELY

Barbara A. Salsbee  
(Mrs. Henry O. Salsbee III)

CC Frances Zipse

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NOV 8 - 1990

November 5, 2000

FCC MAIL ROOM

Magalie Salas, Secretary  
The Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street S.W.  
Washington DC 20554

Dear Commissioners of the F.C.C.,

First off I'd like to extend my Thanks and appreciation for your courageous vote requiring the networks to begin providing this essential information service to people who are blind and visually impaired.

This Docket No. 99-339 is very important for anyone who cannot see the television screen to have a alternate means for knowing what is happening on the television. I have enjoyed video description in the past and I hope that I can continue to do so in the future.

Video description is a very valuable tool for the blind and visually impaired, because it helps us move one step closer to living equally in the sighted world independently.

I am in complete opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description. They have not provided any new information which was not already known at the time the F.C.C. reached its decision and issued the ruling.

thanks so much for your time and attention.

Sincerely,  
Phyllis J. Buckshaw  
1950 W. Sprague Rd.  
Parma, Ohio 44134

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82000  
FCC

Ivars Pakulis  
642 Turney Road #119  
Bedford OH 44146

November 4, 2000

Magalie Salas,, Secretary  
The Federal Communications Commission  
445 - 12th Street,, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. Salas:

This letter is in reference to Docket No. 99-339. I would like to thank the Commissioners of the FCC for recognizing the need for descriptive video content in the media. For us blind and visually impaired individuals at present there are mostly talk shows where the action is not essential for understanding. It would be a great improvement in our quality of life if we could enjoy other visual programs with our sighted relatives and friends.

During blind rehabilitation I had an opportunity to "watch" a couple tapes of descriptive video. Like the name implies, it describes the action. It is not some awkward program with a tortured soundtrack. Think of descriptive video as a radio show with video enhancement. A radio show has to make sense with audio, or people would not listen to it. So does descriptive video make sense on the sound track. Good descriptive video is not intrusive like closed captions scrolling on the screen for hearing impaired viewers.

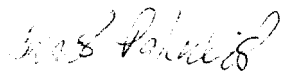
The description of action can be invisible to those not aware of the effort put into creating it. Let me illustrate the concept. If one can watch a movie with the eyes closed and understand the action, it is descriptive video. We blind and visually handicapped have learned how to "see" with our brain, if given a few clues. For example, take a gun fight scene from a Western. Bang, bang. We

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do not need an announcer to explain that they are shooting; we can hear the shots. But we cannot see who falls down. A "Got you, you low down skunk" or "Goodbye, Sheriff" turns the scene into descriptive video. A closing scene of the two lovers riding off into the sunset as the music swells is totally lost on those who cannot see. By adding a couple bystanders to the scene remarking to each other what a nice couple John and Mary make, riding off into the sunset, enables the blind to imagine a sunset maybe even more colorful than the one on the screen.

I believe those who have petitioned the FCC to reconsider the decision to require descriptive video in the near future are mistaken. They may not realize the value of descriptive video. The ultimate goal of any presentation is to reach the largest audience possible. Programs suitable for the blind not only would attract the visually impaired but their friends and relatives. And it can be done without making the presentation less attractive to any other viewers. All it takes is to establish a balance between the sound and visual aspects of the program. By putting too much emphasis on the visual part and neglecting the importance of the sound track one runs the danger of regressing toward the era of the silent movies, where exaggerated gestures and motions had to carry the content of the story. Thus I consider the FCC ruling on descriptive video a commandment of "Thou shalt produce good stuff and be successful." All it requires is a little awareness and imagination on the part of those involved with the creative process. It does not take a superhuman effort or expense, just some imaginative hints placed in the context. If you can watch it with your eyes closed and still make sense of it, it is good enough for us blind folk.

Sincerely,



Ivars Pakulis

100-2  
JUN 8 2000

FCC REC'D